

sibility of promoting exports of fruits has various schemes for market development, product promotion, quality upgradation, improvement in packaging, arranging Buyer-Seller meets, participation in International Trade Fairs etc. A major constraints in the expansion of export of fruits has been lack of sufficient infrastructural facilities. It has already been decided to pay special attention to this aspect during the 8th Plan period.

[Translation]

Landless Agricultural Labourers

* 540 SHRI KESRI LAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government to bring landless agricultural laborer and labourers of the unorganised sector under the group insurance scheme;

(b) the details of the funds allocated therefor;

(c) whether the Union Government have provided financial assistance to the State Governments for this purpose;

(d) if so, the details of the assistance provided during the last one year, State-wise; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government so far to make this scheme popular and effective?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) to (d) A Group Insurance Scheme for landless agricultural labourers was introduced by the Government of India on the 15th August, 1987 to cover all the heads of the landless agricultural labourers

families between the ages of 18 and 60 for a sum assured of Rs. 1,000/- (since revised to Rs. 2,000/-). This scheme which was initially financed by the Central Government is now being financed by the LIC from the Social Security Fund with effect from the 1st April, 1990. Under this scheme, the entire annual premium cost is borne by the LIC.

The Life Insurance Corporation of India has also set up a Social Security Fund with an initial corpus of Rs. 100 Crores and formulated various Group Insurance Schemes to cover the labourers of the unorganised sector. 50% of the premium is payable by the beneficiary and the balance 50% is met out of the Social Security Fund. The Scheme envisages payment of Rs. 3,000/- to the legal heirs of the insured on the normal death of the member of the Scheme and Rs. 6,000/- in case of an accidental death. The workers under various occupations covered under these schemes include Beedi Workers, Carpenters, handloom weavers, rikshaw pullers, fishermen, Safai Karmancharis, forest workers etc. Since these schemes are financed from out of the Social Security Fund with the beneficiary bearing 50% of the premium cost, the question of giving assistance to the State Government does not arise.

(e) The LIC has put up wall paintings, holdings, posters etc. in many rural areas to give adequate publicity to these Schemes. State Government agencies also take interest in publicising details of these Schemes through their machinery. Committees have also been constituted at various levels consisting of the representatives from the LIC and the State Government to coordinate activities for better results. The month of October every year is observed as Social Security Month and intensive publicity efforts are made to spread details of these Schemes, in rural areas.